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### Twice a Home

A Widow's Experience

By ESTHER VANDEVEER

My love for Edward Lane began when we were both so young that neither of us could remember a time when it did not exist. His father's place was but a short distance from limits of both places. On one side of this line was the playground of the several children, boys and girls, including Edward and myself, who lived in the neighborhood. I can remember as far back as when I was seven years old and Edward nine that is playing keep house he and I always played the FIRE INSURANCE part of bushand and wife. There was a swing on this playground, and Edward's father put up articles for a boys' gymnasium. A little house four or five feet high was built for us girls and furnished with toy furniture. At times we would leave our dolls there all night, first putting them to bed.

When I grew taller I could not understand how I could have stood upright in that little house. And what seemed more remarkable to me was that Edward could have done so, for be was always a large child. And I remember that when he had been away to school for a long while and came back he was to consult my own feelings to the mat taller than the house

By this time we were growing out of childhood into that intermediate period J. G. BROWNRIDGE, D. V. M. when, though boys and girls may feet love, they are not likely to express it. It is a period of transition from child love to real love. The boy mind is taken Wright House Livery
Both Phones
Alma, Mich.
Up with athletic sports, while the girl bides her secret almost from herself.
Indeed, so nebulous is this period that up with athletic sports, while the girl in my own case it is difficult for me to recall my exact feelings. I remember them faintly and as existing at intervals. They were rather a small portion of my girl's existence than the whole

> When I was sixteen I was awakened to the true condition by the marked preference displayed by another girl for my Edward I com that time my love became the principal instead of a minor part in my life. I falled to conceal my Jeniousy from him, and this, prought out his own consciousness of what was between as. There was no formal declaration, no conventional giving of the hand, not even the lovers' kiss. He merely said something about the other girs, I know not what, but it assured me there was no change In our position since the days when we played husband and wife at keeping house-no change in the position. but a great change in the condition. It had then been like a wlater bud, but it was now swetten under a spring sun. failing. ready to put forth leaves

experienced the proposal that other heart girls seemed to regard the next most important moment in their lives to starting lowerd me. their marriage. Edward and I had no. But to a twinking I had recovered occasion for a proposal. Our lave was myscil. And what had enabled me to rather, as I have said, an unfolding of do so? The audien appearance of as a bud than the birth of a butterfly, object, Ale these objects that come

that is then of a proposal had occurred. I had been telt alone in . room was on the second floor, overlooking the playground where we had preferded to be husband and wife The faint dresse of childhood had been developed to a realization of almost perfect imppiness. If there rould be a perfection on earth these fire years or my life, from (wenty to (wenty-five, were such a condition. Two children were born to us, a boy and a girt. What seemed strange to me was that. though I gave them a boundless love.

Up to this point there had been an expansion of happiness Suddenly that night was four there came a check: Our younger child sickened and died. I have dehave likened to the gradual unfolding day telling what had barpened. My of a flower. I have no heart to give bushand was delighted with his purmore than a brief mention of its blight chase, and before I had gained heart ing Within a few months after the 10 tell him my secret be had become first death a second occurred, and within another year I lost my busband years. My husband to now an old lapse, in which I did not take enough of them know that their mother has interest in my surroundings to be affected by them. After one has met with a serious acedent or has been operated upon by a surgeon the senses has not brought me unhappiness. I are deadened; then comes the beginping of pale. It was so with me When I became myself my surroundings were painful to me. Some per ture; the one of flesh and blood the sons similarly situated nurse their grief by living in such surroundings. longed to get away from them. Friends advised me to seek recovery in the many new scenes and interesting objects that are to be found abroad. I took their advice. I sailed for Eu-

upon-never to return to it. It may be considered that my story is one of coincidence. It is more than that, it is an illustration of the very different conditions that may occur in the life of a single person. Masters of romance have maintained that there should be in some or story but one love. Playwrights never bring a secand on to the stage. They portray eather remance than real fire and do not give all that real iffe needs. They are of the same order as the people of India who believe that the wife should

rope, leaving the place where I had

for sale. One thing I was resolved

the on the funeral pyce of her husband. I may be weather time some women or I may be stronger Possibly I may 27 Grip, Grippe, La Grippe. have less depth of feeling, though that I will not admit. I saw only in nursing Mencal has an all the my grief a dreadful life before me. I recognized the principle that no two absorbing ideas can occupy the brain at one time. I did all that I could to interest myself in what was about me. True, I did not at first succeed and when I did only partinity so. I dread-

ed the word forget, and yet I resitted that to avoid suffering I must temporarily forget. I forced myself to feel that after a time I would be reunited with my loved ones and that meanwhile I must, except occasionally, put them out of my mind.

I made my bome abroad. years after my bereavement I married again. I did so partly because I was lonely, partly because I wished for a man to rely upon, as is untural to any woman, partly because the man I mar tied assured me that I could give blue an interest in life and, lastly, because I became attached to him. He was an American, like myself, and, being wealthy, gave titmself up to study. He fived abroad that he might write books which required his presence

among the subjects of which he wrote For five years after our marriage we continued our residence abroad. During this period children were born to There was a tacit mutual agree ment between us that I should not talk about the world in which I had fived I saw that he would rather leave that to me, considering bimself as having no part in it and I had no desire to make him a part of it. He was absorbed in his literary work, and if I ever told him even where I had lived he soon

Then he was called to America of a matter of some property that need ed his attention. tween us that he should leave me and our children in Lucerne, where we were then living. He expected to be absent not more than two months, but soon after his arrival in America be was induced to write for a publisher a work necessitating his presence in America. He suggested my coming home with the children, but left me

I had never intended to return to the United States, dreading lest it should reawaken me to my lost world. But with a husband and children that world had receded further and further from me till the consciousness of it band that I would go back to the western hemisphere and remain there. I was tired of moving about from one place to another, and the children were coming to that age when they should have steady Instruction at school. Our boys I preferred to bring up in Amer ca. I therefore suggested to my husband that he buy a place in which we might settle. He replied that he agreed and bought a place in the suburbs of the city wherein it would be necessary for him to do his work.

We arrived after dark lighted at our reunion, as were the father and the children. I did not ask where our home was to be. I intend ed to be satisfied with it, pieased with it, wherever it was. We took a train and in less than an hour alighted at a station, where a carriage was wait ing for us. It was very durk when we reached our home, and I saw nothing of it till I stood to the ball. Then I caught at a banister to prevent my

I was in the house I had left more I sometimes wished that I could have than too years before with a blighted

TME STEERS

What he had brought upon me, "Nothing." I replied. "A little giddle should occupy my house. Our fiving ness at having been so long rolling at

> "Nothing you don't like is there? he asked anxiously

"On the contrary. piegsed Let us see the rest of it." He took me into every room in the twice since I had parfed with it and both times with the furniture included. Not for the world would I have betrayed that these rooms, closets, cor ners, with every bed, rable, bureau and been familiar to me from childthat which I bore their father, instead hood. But when it was over I passed of being dimmished, was increased. the night alone in a room opening into Truly love must be, like space, infinite.

When morning entag I found that I could endure the elect shock I could scribed with some minuteness what I endure more. I deferred from day to a fixture in it. Mooths passed, then For a time I was in a sort of coi- man and my children are grown. None been living in her second earthly

No torigue or non can describe who

And yet. afte all, this coincidence have been living two existences, both of which are dear to me, the one near by, the other in the far past and fuother of spiritual form. In time it will be a spiritual mingling of the two

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